

**Microsoft**

January 26, 2002

Attorney General Ashcroft, USDOJ  
950 Penna. Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

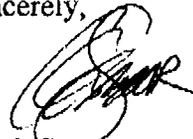
Dear AG Ashcroft,

I believe that your decision to settle this Microsoft suit was a wise one. Anytime that our government takes upon itself the rather extreme position of suing a private business is serious indeed. It is important for our government to encourage innovation and creativity through incentives, rather than discouraging them through convoluted, politically expedient lawsuits. It seems as if this case may have had less actual legal merit than it first appeared.

In these days, we should remain especially vigilant at concentrating on far more important issues like national security and budgetary problems. It is good for us to settle this case and move on to these more important matters. The settlement does an excellent job of answering for all the problems that competitors brought against Microsoft. By allowing manufacturers their own say in how to configure Windows and competitors more access to source code that will improve their programs' ability to operate in Windows, Microsoft is going well beyond what has been asked of them.

Thank you for your foresight and wisdom in this matter and thank you for taking the time to review my opinion in this matter. It is about time for the Justice Department ask the people who will be most affected by this decision how it will impact them.

Sincerely,



Clark Spencer